



# Scripture Union

God's Big Story transforming young lives



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting children, young people and families with God through  
His Word across more than 120 countries worldwide

[www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)







# A global network sharing one mission



**Monika Kuschmierz**  
International Director

It is our privilege to present to you the Scripture Union International Annual Report for 2018. In it you will find examples of activities and developments from around the world during the past year. Since its inception over 150 years ago, God has continued to richly bless the work of Scripture Union. Today, we have a presence in about 120 countries and we are reaching out to millions of children and young people, and their families.

Through the work of Scripture Union International, we aim to encourage, support and assist in the development and growth of Scripture Union movements around the world and to provide a global platform for sharing what God is doing through these various ministries.

2018 has been a year of transition and change for Scripture Union International, implementing a new structure with a new Global Board and a new International Director. With God's help, we are moving forward with the mission that has been entrusted to us.



**Christian Hellwig**  
International Chair



## The Global Board

(L-R):

- Dr Enrique Martinez, Honduras
- Mr David Thompson,  
Honorary treasurer, Northern Ireland
- Mrs Margaret Siwale, Zambia
- Mrs Monika Kuschmierz,  
International Director, Germany
- Mr Christian Hellwig, Chair, Switzerland
- Ms Maggie Norman, Canada
- Prof Sam Afrane, Ghana
- Mr Ray Baker, Sweden
- Mr Jon Ong, Singapore



**Scripture Union**

God's Big Story transforming young lives

Scripture Union International Council  
Limited Company in England & Wales  
Reg No. 3678243, Reg Charity No. 1072964

Registered Office (not for general correspondence):  
Bourbon Court, Nightingales Corner  
Little Chalfont, Bucks, HP7 9QS  
United Kingdom

## Aims

Working with churches, Scripture Union aims to:

- make God's Good News known to children, young people and families, and
  - encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer,
- so that they may come to personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants to a world in need.





## Supporting ministry

Scripture Union International supports national Scripture Union movements by enabling their ministries to become more effective. During 2018 our ministry specialists offered practical support and training in a wide range of areas...

### Walking with the vulnerable in New Zealand

According to Scripture Union New Zealand's South Island Camps Facilitator, Paul Humphreys, issues around youth mental health and suicide are destroying a generation. He said, "In New Zealand, we have developed a four-hour interactive experience called Āpōpō, which means 'The next day'.

People struggling with mental health often cannot see how they will make it to the next day. Āpōpō seeks to empower friends, parents, people who work with youth and others, with easy to learn tips and tools to help move the metaphorical 'fence far away from the edge of the cliff, rather than to be the ambulance at the bottom'."

Āpōpō pursues the idea that it will take a village to respond to the challenge of the vast volume of young people and young adults needing help. The program is distinctive in that it is grounded in theology, embracing scripture to reinforce God's love for all. Āpōpō aims to empower ordinary people to help those closest to them who are in need of support.

*'People struggling with mental health often cannot see how they will make it to the next day'*

### Sports ministry in Europe

Athens is not only the birthplace of the modern-day Olympic games, but it is also where God inspired a new Scripture Union sports ministry development in 2018. While in the city, Global team ministry specialists Terry Williams and Steve Meeker hatched an idea to bring key leaders from around Scripture Union Europe together to a forum on sports ministry at the Scripture Union Croatia Training Centre. Although not on the scale of an Olympic opening ceremony, it was a significant step forward in understanding sports ministry in Scripture Union Europe and being a catalyst for the future. Following the forum, Scripture Union England & Wales's representative returned and equipped participants to launch Sweaty Church ministries. In Bulgaria, it became a catalyst to set up a hiking ministry and in Kosovo, a new soccer league was launched. What began as an idea in Athens has already produced results in several nations.



### Rethinking discipleship

Responding to the challenge of how to make life long disciples, Scripture Union International's ministry team have developed a new resource which is being rolled out across Scripture Union movements world-wide. Children's ministry specialist Annette Osborne explained, "We have developed a 'Rethinking Discipleship' resource for Scripture Union movements, drawing on the Here2Stay discipleship framework, biblical and theological understandings and research from around the world. This resource is designed to support and guide Scripture Union movements as they consider what discipleship looks like in their Scripture Union ministries, as well as how Scripture Union might best support the local church." All these resources are now available for Scripture Union movements to access, contextualise and implement in their own setting.



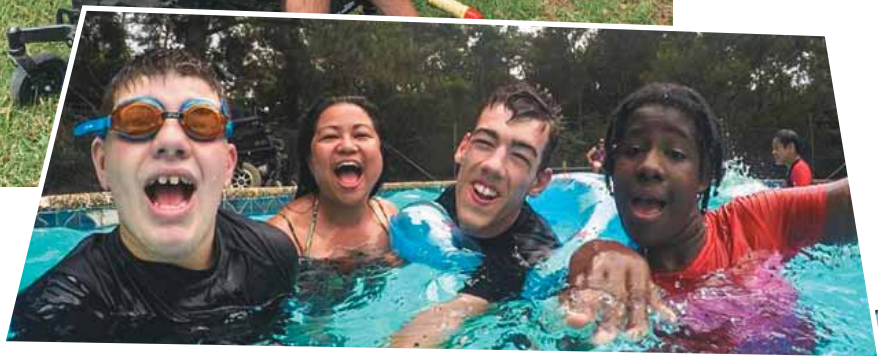


# Supporting ministry

The ministry of Scripture Union is as diverse as the countries and cultures where our teams are serving. We are committed to building relationships and to long term discipleship, demonstrating concern for children and young people in every area of their lives.



*'I knew right then that this was a camp of loving Christians who would not walk away from a challenge'*

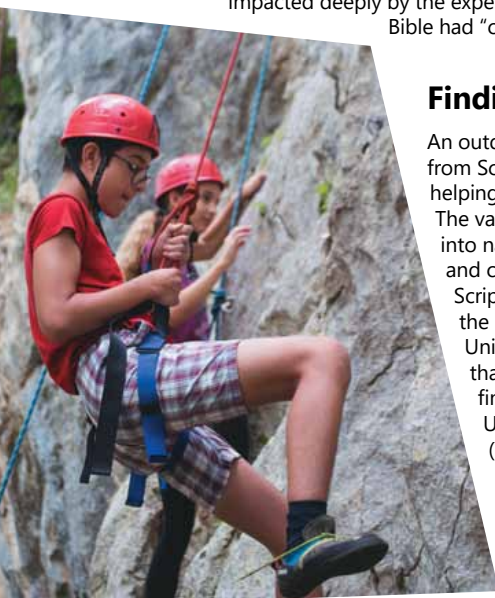


## Camps for young people of all abilities

Scripture Union New South Wales (NSW) in Australia is a shining example of welcoming children and young people of all abilities to camps. Their 'Dare 2B Different' camp is a unique opportunity for teenage boys and girls, with or without a disability, to participate in experiences that might otherwise be inaccessible. One camper, Spencer (18), often struggled to fit in with his peers at high school. He has cerebral palsy and is unable to walk or speak, he communicates by typing on a computer. He attended the 'Dare 2B Different' camp for a number of years and discovered a love and care he hadn't found at school. He said, "On this camp, the students looked beyond my disability and were keen to get to know me; volunteering to help me at meal times and waiting for me to type during discussion groups." On his first camp, he recalled "Our first activity was the giant swing, but the path to the swing was littered with rocks and tree stumps. I thought I would not be able to even see my friends swing, let alone do it myself. But a group of leaders were insistent! So, we drove my chair as far as it would go and then they helped me walk the rest of the way. I knew right then that this was a camp of loving Christians who would not walk away from a challenge."

## Bringing the Bible to life in Greece

The leaders of Scripture Union Singapore and Scripture Union Greece share a mutual vision, of getting 'Back to the Bible'. They want believers to experience the Bible and to re-kindle their passion to study God's Word. Twenty-two participants from Singapore joined a Biblical tour run by Scripture Union Greece member Voula Kalapoda. Starting in Thessaloniki, they followed the travels of the Apostle Paul, as their guide Voula brought to life the historical, Biblical and cultural aspects which shaped Christianity. Everyone in the group was impacted deeply by the experience and they said the Bible had "come alive" through the trip.



## Finding God through the outdoors

An outdoor education program for young people, that is being run from Scripture Union Croatia's Leadership Lab International (LLI), is helping them discover more about themselves and the Christian faith. The values-based program takes students out of the classroom and into nature, offering a range of outdoor activities from rock climbing and canoeing to forest walks and team games. A team from Scripture Union Latvia took part in 2018, with the aim of offering the program to schools in Latvia. The National Director of Scripture Union Latvia, Liga Cepurīteiga, said "We wanted to receive training that could help us start a new program at our campsite and to find new ways to connect with unreached children." Scripture Union Latvia is now planning a new program called SavaDaba (Your Own Nature) to be used in partnership with schools as a platform for children and youth to explore God, themselves and their communities through nature.





# Connecting communities

We connect national movements to a supportive, interdependent community, which aims to strengthen one another through our shared life and mission. In 2018, we began to bring together key leaders of Scripture Union movements by participation in Community Groups. These meetings helped small and large movements come together for training, to share stories and information, and to support and encourage one another.

In **2018**  
our



**6**  
Field  
Development  
Directors  
visited

**82**

countries and  
flew around  
**480,000 km.**  
They helped  
facilitate



**10**  
Community  
Group  
meetings  
where over



**100**  
countries were  
represented



## Renewed passion for Bible Note writers

The cold winds at Scripture Union Zimbabwe's Sanganayi Campsite, near Harare, did not deter first-time writers from their Bible note-writing training. Scripture Union International's Ministry Specialist Becky Swamickan said, "Many of the 31 participants told us how their hearts were 'strangely warmed' through note-writing." The workshop, hosted by the Southern African Community Group, focused on writing for children, young people

and adults. They showed how to apply Scripture Union's hermeneutical principles and note-writing skills and provided an understanding of Scripture Union's Bible ministry. It included a session on engaging young people digitally and used Scripture Union South Africa's Wordspace app as an example. All the delegates had their passion for God's Word renewed and discovered a fresh vision for reaching out through note-writing. One participant said, "I have learnt many good things, especially

*'I have learnt how to write for my culture and I now have new ways of understanding a passage'*

how to write for my culture. I now have new ways of understanding a Bible passage". Scripture Union Malawi participants continued after the main event by training note writers to write in their local languages.

## Fresh excitement for the future

A gathering of two Community Groups for French-speaking Africa, helped to spark fresh enthusiasm and ideas amongst Scripture Union movements from 13 different countries. At the event in Yaoundé, Cameroon, staff from Scripture Union Switzerland (French-speaking) led a session on creative Bible Engagement and ministering to children and young people through games and sport. Many of the 39 national representatives committed to plan camps or join with others in shared camps by 2020. One of the directors said, "This kind of session is exactly what we needed." French Speaking Africa's Field Development Director, Emmanuel Todjo said "This Community Group gathering was a real revival initiative. Everyone welcomed the chance to share, learn together and be equipped for the future."







## Securing sustainability

Scripture Union International seeks to help national movements achieve sustainability, thereby unlocking resources for further development of Scripture Union globally.

### Developing the future together

Supporting and advising Scripture Union movements on sustainability issues is a key role for Scripture Union International's Sustain team, led by Glenn Coombs. In 2018, the team worked with asset development projects in Vanuatu, Latvia, Estonia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Kenya. Glenn said "We have seen some wonderful provision from God. For example, raising up work parties in Germany to assist Scripture Union Latvia, and in helping Scripture Union Vanuatu rebuild their campsite after cyclone PAM with teams from Australia and New Zealand". An experienced architect and builder joined in visits to four African countries with Field Development Director, Tony Nanzah. In Kenya, the Sustain team was able to finalise the infrastructure for a bore-hole water project on the Scripture Union campsite, including a pump, pipes and solar panels which will allow them to attract income to further develop the site. Other highlights included introducing the National Director to an Australian farmer living in Kenya, who is willing to coach them in 'cash crop' production. The visit to Zimbabwe offered support regarding infrastructure improvement which will aid in the redevelopment of the campsite at Sanganyi Creek. This will include income generation, clean water, building maintenance, food production and an increased capacity for ministry activities.



## Nurturing partnerships

Scripture Union International acts as a trusted partner with international Christian agencies and churches, fostering partnerships and connections with national movements.



### Working together on Bible guides

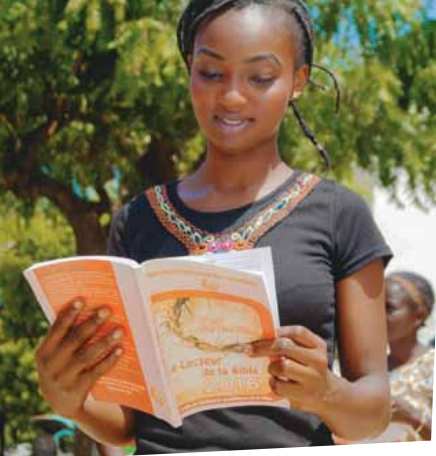
A special partnership across Scripture Union's French-speaking movements has helped combine resources and increase the impact of Scripture Union's French-language publications. In 2018, representatives from 6 countries came together to collaborate on the development of two Bible guides. 'The Daily Bread', which had been produced independently in several different countries, is now being designed and printed centrally to save costs, with more than 100,000 copies being shipped to 26 countries. In addition, 'RDV the Book' has been turned into an annual publication that now comes with a smartphone app. This guide is distributed in Switzerland, France, Belgium and Canada, along with countries in French-speaking Africa. Editors from Cameroon, Benin and the DRC all assisted in the writing of biblical commentaries and more than 13,000 copies have been printed.

### Growing reconciliation

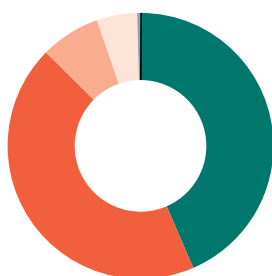
Poverty, famine and forced migration have brought a great number of Sudanese people to Uganda. They are living in refugee camps close to the border. Scripture Union South Sudan and Uganda have teamed up in order to work with the refugees. They have bought a piece of land so that they can grow vegetables to feed the children. But they are also sharing the love of God with the refugees. A big issue for many of them is how to embrace forgiveness and reconciliation. After attending a camp along with 1,250 other young people, one girl said: "Praise God for this conference, because I had the chance to reconcile with my uncle. A year ago, he sold our ration cards and disappeared from the family. The entire family suffered because of him, but today we are back as a family in the presence of God's people."





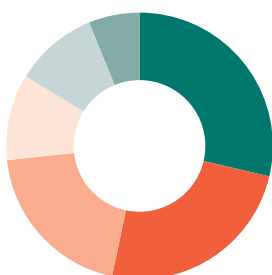


## Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2018



### 2018 INCOME

- Restricted Income for Movements (£645,000)
- Donations and Legacies (£642,900)
- Europe Region Income (£110,000)
- Restricted Income for Ministry Activities (£69,500)
- Charitable Activities (£6,400)
- Investments and Other Income (£700)



### 2018 EXPENDITURE

- Grant funding of activities (£304,500)
- General (£259,000)
- Field Development (£209,600)
- Global Training Strategy (£110,000)
- Other Support Activities (£74,000)
- Bible, Children and Youth Work (£65,600)

#### Where our Income comes from

Our total income for 2018 was £1.474m up from £0.769m in 2017. Donations and legacy gifts increased by £420k, giving from national movements by £230k and £110k extraordinary income was received from the European region as a result of the restructure where regions were closed.

#### Where your money is spent

Our total expenditure in 2018 was £1.056m up from £0.823m in 2017. This increase in spending reflects the transition to our new global structure and the implementation of the strategic initiatives we have undertaken.

### BALANCE SHEET

	£ 2018	£ 2017
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	191,602	105,617
Cash at Bank and in Hand	1,128,948	778,791
	<b>1,320,550</b>	<b>884,408</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>	(65,478)	(54,292)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>1,255,072</b>	<b>830,116</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Tangible fixed Assets	0	4,909
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,255,072</b>	<b>835,025</b>
<b>Income Funds</b>		
Restricted Funds	699,710	425,005
Designated Funds	253,210	150,910
Unrestricted Funds	302,152	259,110
	<b>1,255,072</b>	<b>835,025</b>

As at 31st December 2018 total funds stood at £1.255m (2017: £0.835m)



As a Christian organisation we depend wholly upon God for the provision of the resources we need to carry out our chosen ministries. We are very grateful for the generous and sacrificial giving of Trusts and Foundations, national movements and individual donors who have partnered with us over the past year.

Our objective is to ensure that we use all monies effectively, efficiently and as economically as possible. We are working hard to be good stewards of God's given resources and to be fully accountable to the global community we serve.

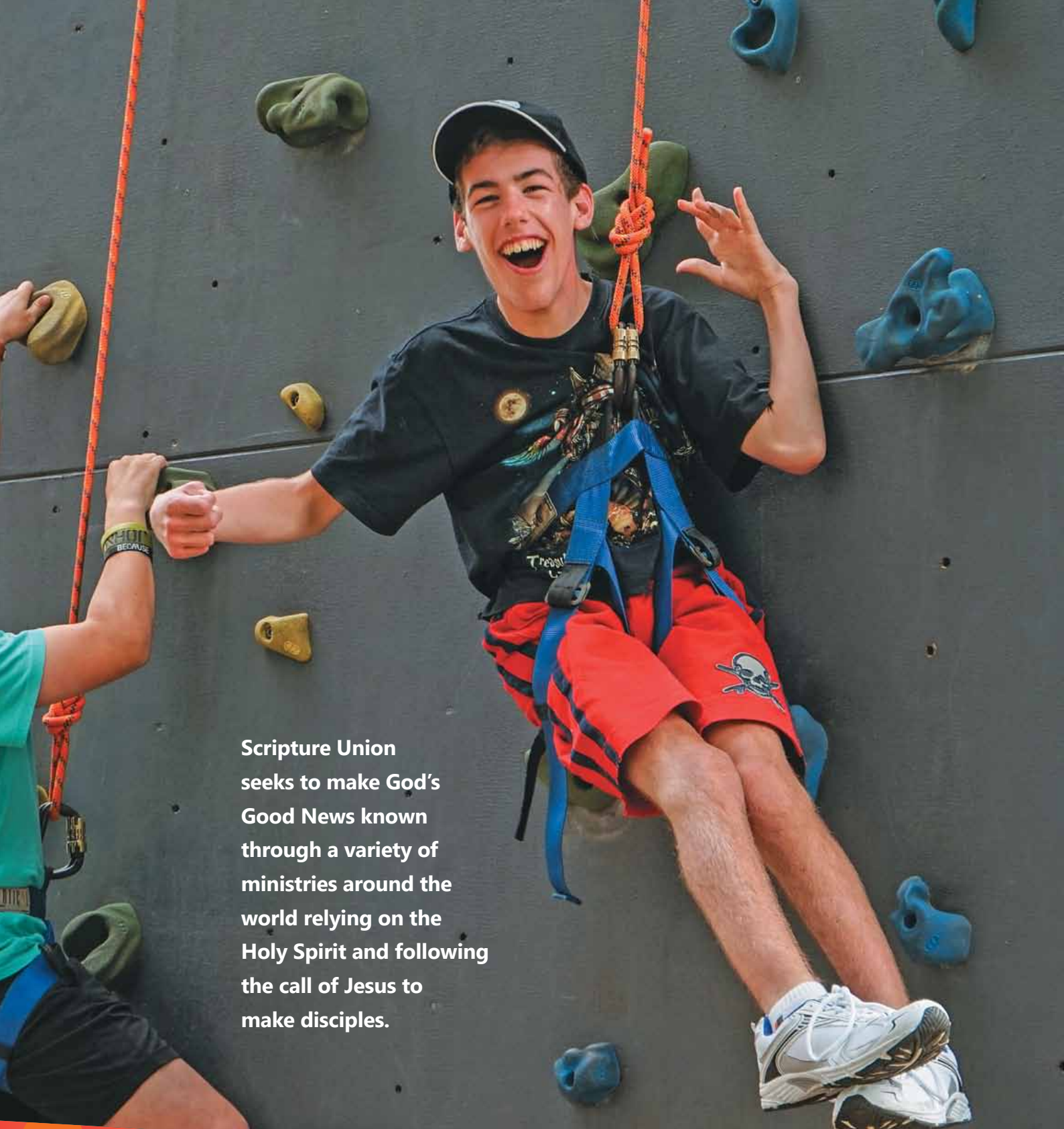
The 2018 Statement includes audited figures. The full audited statements will be available from the UK Office from 31 July 2019.

Independent Auditors: Cansdales Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditors and Business Advisors.

Email: [finance@scriptureunion.global](mailto:finance@scriptureunion.global)







**Scripture Union  
seeks to make God's  
Good News known  
through a variety of  
ministries around the  
world relying on the  
Holy Spirit and following  
the call of Jesus to  
make disciples.**



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